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Brown amendment, on line 5 changes "shall" to "may". Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Discussion on the Maurstad amendment. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, the Maurstad amendment really doesn't solve the problem or change essentially what the Brown amendment does. And it doesn't solve the problem because it doesn't take out subsection 6 which eliminates the program in two years. I think it's highly inefficient of us and putting the shoe on the wrong foot to say that the program should be eliminated in two years without any sort of evidence from anybody that I know of so far that, one, the program wouldn't work the way it's supposed to work; that, two, Medicaid now doesn't work efficiently. You know, it's interesting that we have this attack on the Medicaid program, but I haven't heard myself personally, nor have I heard anybody else explain why Medicaid is inefficiently run. Do we make the assumption that all government programs are less efficiently run than private enterprise programs? I don't believe that for a minute. Nor have I heard anything about our Medicaid program that would indicate that it's poorly run. And I would assume from the evidence before the committee that the fact that the medical community had nothing adverse to say about the Medicaid system and the fact that the private insurance industry didn't have anything to say negatively about this particular bill is some indication that our Medicaid program works quite well. So, I would like to hear exactly what's wrong with the way the Medicaid program is running. Now, that doesn't mean, that does not at all mean that there are not substantial questions involved here and that the exploration of alternative ways of doing things are not in order, they should always be in order. But the proper way to have... frame this amendment in the first instance, I think, should have been to provide for the plan, to provide for the presentation of information before the Legislature, but allow the Legislature and the individual legislators decide whether they want to put forth a plan that they presume to be better than what we have. It's quite interesting to me that we seem to want to do less if we have this new private plan, that somehow it's going to allow us to do less and at the same time to do more. I guess that's one of the ironies of this particular plan. But if children are shifted,